



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

Ask SHIP

Mary Phillips

Q: I just joined a Medicare Part D plan, what should I do when I go to the pharmacy for the first time?

A: You should go to the pharmacy as prepared as you can. Bring as much information as you have, especially if you haven't received your plan ID card. Bring along the following information:

- Your Medicare and/or Medicaid card
- A photo ID
- Your plan ID card, if you have one
- If you don't have a plan ID card yet, bring your acknowledgement or confirmation letter from the plan if you have one, or an enrollment confirmation number from the plan.

If you haven't received any plan enrollment materials, let your pharmacist know the name of the plan you have enrolled in, so that he

can confirm your enrollment with the plan company.

If you have both Medicare and Medicaid, or have been approved for extra help through Social Security, you should bring a copy of the yellow automatic enrollment letter from Medicare or the approval letter from Social Security as proof you qualify for extra help.

If the pharmacist is not able to confirm your plan enrollment or extra help eligibility status, you may need to pay out-of-pocket for your drugs. Save your receipts and work with your drug plan to be reimbursed.

Note: January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. As part of your Medicare benefits, Medicare covers Pap test and a pelvic exam to check for cervical and vaginal cancers. The pelvic exam also includes a clinical breast exam to check for breast cancer.

This benefit is available to all women who have Medicare. Medicare will cover the Pap test and pelvic exam once every 24 months. However, if you are of childbearing age and have had an abnormal Pap test within the past 36 months,

or if you are at high risk for cervical or vaginal cancer, Medicare will cover a Pap test and pelvic exam every 12 months.

You do not pay anything for the Pap test lab work. You will pay a 20% coinsurance of the Medicare approved amount for the Pap collection, pelvic and breast exams. The Part B deductible is waived.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), cervical cancer was once the number one cause of cancer death in women, but since use of Pap tests to detect cancer the number of deaths has declined. The ACS predicted an estimate of 9,710 new cases of invasive cervical cancer diagnosed in 2006, and about 3,700 women will have died of this disease. Risk factors for cervical cancer include:

- You have had an abnormal Pap test
- You have had cancer in the past
- You have been infected with the Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- You began having sex before age 16
- You have had many sexual partners
- Your mother took DES (Diethylstilbestrol), a hormonal drug, when

she was pregnant with
you

- You have a diet that is
low in fruits and
vegetables
- You are overweight or
obese
- You had many full
term pregnancies
- You smoke or are
exposed to
secondhand smoke.

Prevention is the first step
in staying healthy. Contact
Medicare at 1-800-
Medicare (1-800-633-
4227, the Medicare
website at
www.medicare.gov , or
SHIP at 1-800-452-4800
for more information about
preventative services
covered by Medicare.

Address your questions to:

Ask SHIP
714 West 53rd Street
Anderson, IN 46013
Or www.Medicare.in.gov
1-800-452-4800